

of Oklahoma; and Sandy K. Baruah, Acting Administrator, Small Business Administration. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Proclamation 8287—National Hispanic Heritage Month, 2008
September 12, 2008

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

During National Hispanic Heritage Month, we recognize the many Americans of Hispanic descent who have made outstanding contributions to our Nation.

The rich cultural traditions of the Hispanic-American community have made a remarkable impact on American society. The diverse backgrounds of Hispanic Americans and their dedication to family have become an integral part of America. With a deep commitment to faith and a strong desire to live the American dream, these citizens are realizing the full blessings of liberty. Educational opportunities are helping a new generation work toward success, and many Hispanic Americans operate thriving small businesses.

We also honor Hispanic Americans for their strong tradition of service in the Armed Forces. These proud patriots have fought in every war since our founding, and many have earned the Medal of Honor for their courage. Hispanic service men and women have shown their love for the United States by answering the call to serve, and we owe them and their families a tremendous debt of gratitude. Their patriotism and valor have added to the character of our Nation.

National Hispanic Heritage Month is an opportunity to celebrate the spirit and accomplishments of Hispanic Americans everywhere. To honor those achievements, the Congress, by Public Law 100–402, as amended, has authorized and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation designating September 15 through October 15 as “National Hispanic Heritage Month.”

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by

the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 15 through October 15, 2008, as National Hispanic Heritage Month. I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 16, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on September 17. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this proclamation.

Proclamation 8288—National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week, 2008

September 12, 2008

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Throughout history, America has counted on brave individuals willing to put on the uniform to protect our land and defend our way of life. This week we honor and recognize the many contributions members of our National Guard and Reserve make to our Nation, and we thank the civilian employers who support these individuals as they answer the call of duty.

The men and women of the National Guard and Reserve have demonstrated the highest form of citizenship, and their service is vital to the security of our country and the peace of the world. As the early patriots who claimed our Nation’s liberty did, today’s Guard and Reserve are fighting a new and unprecedented war and pledging their lives and honor to defend our freedom. As many of those early patriots did, members of today’s Guard and Reserve lead civilian lives but stand ready to wear our Nation’s uniform

when liberty is threatened. The families of the National Guard and Reserve serve our Nation by proudly standing behind these brave men and women, and America appreciates their sacrifice as well.

In all they do, the National Guard and Reserve and their families represent the best of the American spirit.

Our Nation also depends on the commitment of the civilian employers of the members of the National Guard and Reserve. In offices and factories across America, organizations do without the talents of many hard-working people who have been called upon to protect our country. Our Nation's employers provide time off, pay, healthcare benefits, and job security because they care about and love their country. These businesses have put patriotism above profit, and they deserve the gratitude of all Americans.

During National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week, a grateful country pays tribute to the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve, and we express our gratitude to the employers who support them and help enable them to serve.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 14 through September 20, 2008, as National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week. I encourage all Americans to join me in expressing our thanks to members of our National Guard and Reserve and their civilian employers for their patriotism and sacrifices on behalf of our Nation. I also call upon State and local officials, private organizations, businesses, and all military commanders to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 16, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on September 17.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

September 6

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

September 7

The President declared an emergency in Florida and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts due to the emergency conditions resulting from Hurricane Ike beginning on September 5 and continuing.

September 8

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The President made additional disaster assistance available to Iowa by authorizing an increase in the level of Federal funding for public assistance projects undertaken as a result of severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding that occurred from May 25 to August 13.

September 9

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Asif Ali Zardari of Pakistan to congratulate him on his election victory and discuss Pakistan-U.S. relations. Later, he had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, at the Department of the Interior, the President had lunch with Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne and met with Interior Department employees. He then visited Walter Reed Army Medical Center where he met with wounded military personnel and their families.

The President declared a major disaster in Maine and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, and tornadoes from July 18 to August 16.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jerry Gayle Bridges to be Inspector